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Message Text

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47
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ELLSWORTH, ROBERT) PFOR, MT

SUBJECT: ELLSWORTH VISIT TO MALTA

1. DEPUTY SECDEF ROBERT ELLSWORTH HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION FROM MALTESE GOVERNMENT TO VISIT MALTA AND ACCEPT AN AWARD FROM GOM DECEMBER 13. FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND USE IN RESPONDING TO ANY QUESTIONS.

2. MINTOFF HAS PROPOSED TO OFFER ELLSWORTH MEMBERSHIP IN SELECT MALTESE SOCIETY OF HONOR FOR "SERVICES RENDERED TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA" AND HAS ASKED USG CONCURRENCE. GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES IN THIS CASE, WE HAVE AGREED TO ELLS-
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WORTH'S TRAVELING TO MALTA TO RECEIVE AWARD. EMBASSY

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VALLETTA HAS INFORMED MALTESE THAT HE IS WILLING TO ACCEPT AWARD, WOULD ARRIVE MALTA BY OFFICIAL USAF PLANE, AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MILITARY ASSISTANT. MALTESE OFFICIAL HAS ADVISED EMBASSY THAT MINTOFF HAS PERSONALLY APPROVED ELLSWORTH'S TRAVEL BY OFFICIAL PLANE, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT ARE GOING FORWARD.

3. WE ASSUME MINTOFF WILL TAKE THE OCCASION TO URGE US SUPPORT FOR SECURITY AND ECONOMIC GUARANTEES FOR MALTA AFTER THE UK WITHDRAWAL IN 1979. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO HEAR HIM OUT SINCE IT WOULD BE CLEAR THIS MEETING CAN NOT ENTAIL ANY US COMMITMENT. ROBINSON

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To: NATO BRUSSELS LONDON BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
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